NUMB. XXIV.

The GUARDIAN.

Dicenda tacendaque calles? Perſ.

Wedneſday, April 8. 1713.

JACK Lizard was about Fifteen when he was firſt entered in the Univerſity, and being a Youth of a great deal of Fire, and a more than ordinary Application to his Studies, it gave his Converſation a very particular Turn. He had too much Spirit to hold his Tongue in Company; but at the ſame time ſo little Acquaintance with the World, that he did not know how to talk like other People.

After a Year and half's Stay at the Univerſity, he came down among us to paſs away a Month or two in the Country. The firſt Night after his Arrival, as we were at Supper, we were all of us very much improved by *Jack*'s Table-Talk. He told us, upon the Appearance of a Diſh of Wild-Fowl, that according to the Opinion of ſome Natural Philoſophers they might be lately come from the Moon. Upon which the *Sparkler* burſting out into a Laugh, he inſulted her with ſeveral Queſtions relating to the Bigneſs and Diſtance of the Moon and Stars; and after every Interrogatory would be winking upon me, and ſmiling at his Siſter's Ignorance. *Jack* gained his Point; for the Mother was pleaſed, and all the Servants ſtared at the Learning of their young Maſter. *Jack* was ſo encouraged at this Succeſs, that for the firſt Week he dealt wholly in Paradoxes. It was a common Jeſt with him to pinch one of his Siſter's Lap-dogs, and afterwards prove he could not feel it. When the Girls were ſorting a Set of Knots, he would demonſtrate to them that all the Ribbands were of the ſame Colour; or rather, ſays *Jack*, of no Colour at all. My Lady *Lizard* her ſelf, though ſhe was not a little pleaſed with her Son's Improvements, was one Day almoſt angry with him; for having accidentally burnt her Fingers as ſhe was lighting the Lamp for her Tea-pot; in the midſt of her Anguiſh, *Jack* laid hold of the Opportunity to inſtruct her that there was no ſuch thing as Heat in Fire. In ſhort, no Day paſs'd over our Heads, in which *Jack* did not imagine he made the whole Family wiſer than they were before.

(Price Two Pence.)

That part of his Converſation which gave me the moſt Pain, was what paſs'd among theſe Country Gentlemen that came to viſit us. On ſuch Occaſions *Jack* uſually took upon him to be the Mouth of the Company; and thinking himſelf obliged to be very merry, would entertain us with a great many odd Sayings and Abſurdities of their College-Cook. I found this Fellow had made a very ſtrong Impreſſion upon *Jack*'s Imagination; which he never conſidered was not the Caſe of the reſt of the Company, 'till after many repeated Trials he found that his Stories ſeldom made any Body laugh but himſelf.

All this while looked upon *Jack* as a young Tree ſhooting out into Bloſſoms before its Time; the Redundancy of which, though it was a little unſeaſonable, ſeemed to foretel an uncommon Fruitfulneſs.

In order to wear out the Vein of Pedantry which ran through his Converſation, I took him out with me one Evening, and firſt of all inſinuated to him this Rule which I had my ſelf learned from a very great Author, *To think with the Wiſe, but talk with the Vulgar*. *Jack*'s good Senſe ſoon made him reflect that he had often expoſed himſelf to the Laughter of the ignorant by a contrary Behaviour; upon which he told me, that he would take Care for the future to keep his Notions to himſelf, and converſe in the common receiv'd Sentiments of Mankind. He at the ſame time deſir'd me to give him any other Rules of Converſation which I thought might be for his Improvement. I told him I would think of it; and accordingly, as I have a particular Affection for the young Man, I gave him next Morning the following Rules in Writing, which may perhaps have contributed to make him the agreeable Man he now is.

The Faculty of interchanging our Thoughts with one another, or what we expreſs by the Word *Converſation*, has always been repreſented by Moral Writers as one of the nobleſt Privileges of Reaſon, and